



Lt. Governor Skillman Speaks to Evansville Rotary

My recent trip to speak to the Evansville Rotary marked my 30th visit to Vanderburgh County. I've made a lot of memories in Evansville, many of which include Rotary members and the good work they're doing. Rotarians are busy people. They never slow down, and after six years, Governor Mitch and I are not slowing down either.

I spoke to the Rotary about the state's fiscal health, our economic growth – including the progress we're making on I-69. The section connecting Evansville to Crane Naval Base is still on track to be open to traffic by the end of 2012, more than three years ahead of our earlier schedule.

These things form our foundation. Now, during the legislative session, we have opportunities to build on that. From another honestly balanced budget to important and timely education reforms, every decision will have a lasting impact on how state government operates. That's why I also spoke to the Rotary about my new initiative called Stellar Communities.

Stellar Communities is a collaboration between several state agencies – capacity-building agencies like the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the Housing and Community Development Authority, INDOT and the State Revolving Fund. Working together, our agencies will be able to provide larger sums of money for long-term development plans.



Lt. Governor Skillman speaks to the Evansville Rotary Club at their weekly luncheon meeting.

We will soon be announcing the first Stellar Communities participants, and there will be benefits for small town and big city alike. Evansville is a hub for dozens of smaller communities throughout the county and along the I-69 route. The growth and prosperity of those communities represent an important step forward for Evansville as well.

But Stellar Communities is more than a way to funnel money into communities

faster. Its purpose is to unite state agencies, creating logical ways for them to work together and accomplish more. We can make our capacity-building agencies communicate, collaborate, and strategically invest in Hoosier communities – and we can make that kind of efficiency the trademark of every state agency.

To learn more about Stellar Communities, visit our website at <http://www.in.gov/ocra/2513.htm>.

Becky Skillman



Lt. Governor Skillman oversees the Indiana Department of Agriculture, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, the Office of Energy Development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs, and the Office of Tourism Development. For more, visit her on the web at www.lg.in.gov.